

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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DVDS AVAILABLE FROM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

INDIANAPOLIS—Following the success of the Seventh African-American Male National Conference (AAMNC), the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) has issued a DVD featuring addresses by some of the conference's speakers.

The DVD features speeches by Dr. Frederick (Freddie) Douglas Haynes III, senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas; Dr. Julia Hare, PhD, the national director of the San Francisco Black Think Tank; Jeffrey I. Johnson, better known as "Cousin Jeff" on BET's *Rap City* and the host of *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*; and Dr. Eugene White, superintendent of the Indianapolis Public School system.

The DVD's are available for purchase through ICSSBM for \$20, which includes shipping and handling. Contact ICSSBM Deputy Director Steven Ingram at steven.ingram@fssa.in.gov or telephone him at 317-233-8849 to order.

"We have had great conferences in previous years," said Indiana State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary), who is the ICSSBM chairman and served as the conference chairman. "This year was the most dynamic conference yet. Our speakers were inspirational. They energized our standing-room-only crowds and discussed long-term and short-term issues regarding the use of education as a tool to battle incarceration.

"Tremendous ideas were shared during those three memorable days," Dr. Smith continued. "Those who attended have taken that energy and commitment, along with those innovative ideas, back into their communities where they will work for lasting change. If you were unable to attend the conference, I would recommend watching this DVD and then make plans to attend the next national conference in 2007."

The conference, held in Indianapolis Oct. 26-28, had a sell-out crowd of 566. The theme was Education vs. Incarceration. In addition to speeches by nationally renown African-American leaders, numerous, interactive workshops took place with a wide-ranging exchange of ideas.

The Annual Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males State Conference will be held in the fall of 2006. It alternates years with the national conference.

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This release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H14

